

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 1617Z 302125Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 EB-08 SP-02 INR-10 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0971

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1617Z

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-US LABOR RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 163657 (B) CAIRO 15170 (C) CAIRO 9173

1. AS INDICATED REF C, WE ARE AWARE THAT AFL/CIO
ATTITUDE TOWARD EGYPT TURNS ON ONGOING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
IF AFL/CIO BELIEVES THAT ITS CURRENT STAND-OFF POSITION
WILL SOMEHOW BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON EGYPTIAN LABOR
TO PRESS GOE CHANGE ITS TACTICS AND/OR POLICIES ON PEACE
MATTERS, IT IS ENGAGED IN WISHFUL THINKING. EGYPTIAN
LABOR DOES NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF INFLUENCE AND, WHILE
FRAGMENTED, HAS ITS OWN CONCERNS ABOUT PERCEIVED ISRAELI
ASPIRATIONS. WE REGRET AFL/CIO POSITION, BUT RESPECT
IT. AS NOTED PREVIOUS MESSAGES, OVERALL USG/GOE RE-
LATIONSHIP IS NOT SUFFERING FROM THIS SITUATION.

2. WE REGULARLY TAKE LINE IN RESPONSE TO PERTINENT
EGYPTIAN INQUIRES THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AFL/CIO
AND EFL IS SOMETHING FOR THEM TO WORK OUT, BUT OUR
CREDIBILITY REQUIRES THAT WHEN QUERIED WE GIVE OUR
EGYPTIAN CONTACTS A CANDID ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. TO
DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE NOTHING SHORT OF OSTRICH-LIKE
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KEEPING OUR HEADS IN THE SAND. WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO
SPECULATE RE FUTURE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFL AND
AFL/CIO AND, IF PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY,
HAVE NO REAL PROBLEM WITH IT EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT
IT STRENGTHENS PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS IN EGYPTIAN LABOR.

3. RE PARA 3, REF A, WE ARE WELL AWARE OF MRS. KHALID'S

STRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH EFL PRESIDENT AHMED. MRS. KHALID TOOK INITIATIVE TO CALL AT EMBASSY TO PROVIDE INFO REPORTED CAIRO 13212 AND 14750. LRO HEARD HER OUT, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. OUR RELATIONS WITH AHMED ARE GOOD, BUT THERE IS LITTLE POINT TO FREQUENT CONTACT SINCE SUBJECT OF AFL/CIO UNRESPONSIVENESS INVARIABLY ARISES. HAVING ATTENDED AFL/CIO CONVENTION IN US, AHMED FEELS A BIT VULNERABLE AS RESULT OF AMERICAN LABOR'S PULLING BACK.

4. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, BELL BEING PROGRAMMED MEET WITH APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIALS. EILTS

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